



Maine Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

April 23, 2020 – 2:30pm Via ZOOM

Invited: Chris Riley, Edward Coleman, Nancy Grant, Norman Poirier, Holly Sheehan, Bob Meyers, Noah Pollack, Tracy Willette, Charlie Woodworth, Cathy Small, Gary Marquis, Jane Arbuckle, Jedediah Talbot, Lindsey May, Lana LaPlant-Ellis, Rex Turner, Julie Isbill, Eric Dibner, Patrick Adams, Carolann Ouellette, Kristine Keeney, Doug Beck

Present: Chris Riley, Nancy Grant, Holly Sheehan, Noah Pollack, Tracy Willette, Gary Marquis, Jane Arbuckle, Jedediah Talbot, Lindsey May, Rex Turner, Julie Isbill, Eric Dibner, Patrick Adams, Carolann Ouellette, Kristine Keeney, Doug Beck

Call to order

- I. Welcome
- II. Sharing – What’s new with you and your trail sector? COVID-19 and a trail near you.

Many reports of cancelled efforts, reduced service levels and still questions about how or if normal trail activities can be pursued.

- III. 2020 Grant Awards

- A. Current Status Update

Doug reports that all contracts and project agreements are out to all project sponsors. Only two inquiries so far about possible extensions if conditions prevent previously funded projects from taking place.

- B. De-Obligation / Re-obligation – Allagash

Doug reports the intention of the bureau to tap into un expended project year allocations to de-obligate, and re-obligate toward a water trail boat launch site within the Allagash WW, securing public access to this section of the waterway.

Doug explained that since 2/3rds of all project funds are allocated to local project sponsors, only 1/3rd to state projects, the unexpended funds from all projects in any project year are allocated to state priorities as determined by BPL.

MTAC members expressed an interest in being part of this process of determining awards of “old money”. Doug indicated that this could be considered, but the mechanism to do so does not exist, and the purpose of such input needs clarification.

- C. Helipad question/discussion (Eligibility)



MTAC members enjoyed an interesting discussion about the merits of this concept and how trail related it might be. Doug presented feedback from FHWA and other states related to similar requests. It was noted that helipads are part of other trail systems world wide – Hawaii was noted in particular.

MTAC voted to allow the application and let the merits of the project stand for itself in the process. FHWA noted that if awarded, a determination would have to be made as to the degree to which any helicopter rescue use of the pad was trail related and if other agencies; border patrol, life flight, etc., and only the direct trail related portion of the cost would be eligible for RTP assistance.

IV. New Business

A. Maine Trail Coalition – Introduction & Updates

Brief overview to MTAC members regarding this new group with statewide aspirations. MTC is primarily focused on multi use non motorized inter municipal connecting trails, such as rail trails. The effort grew out of years of frustration trying to gain momentum to continue the Kennebec Rail Trail from Gardiner to Bath

B. 2020 Trail Construction Season Outlook

- 1) Who thinks they are building?
- 2) Who thinks they are not?

General discussion about relative impacts on projects. Some where planning to proceed, others had already called off operations or efforts.

V. Other / Old Business

A. Membership

- 1) Snowmobile vacancy?
- 2) ATV vacancy?

Need for new members mentioned – some had ideas and would forward names to Doug or Tracy

B. Updates

- 1) Trail Standards
- 2) RTP/MCC trail inventory & assessment

Both efforts are lagging and need to be addressed, just need time and energy.

VI. Adjournment / Next Meeting

Adjourned approximately 3:30pm

Date for next meeting not determined